

Message Text

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16

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 OMB-01 CU-04 EB-11 COME-00

SIL-01 LAB-06 AF-10 INT-08 SCEM-02 DRC-01 OPR-02 /169 W
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P 010810Z DEC 73

FM AMCONSUL KARACHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7687

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY

AMCONSUL LAHORE

AMCONSUL PESHAWAR

UNCLAS KARACHI 2481

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS PK

SUBJECT: SPORADIC VIOLENCE AFFECTS LIMITED AREAS OF KARACHI

REF : KARACHI 2471 (NOTAL)

1. THREE DAYS OF SCATTERED INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE, WHICH
BEGAN AS PROTEST TO RECENT BUS FARE INCREASE (REFTEL),
ESCALATED SOMEWHAT THURSDAY NIGHT SETTING STAGE FOR
DAY AND EVENING LONG DISTURBANCES IN PARTS OF KARACHI
FRIDAY, NOV. 30. CLASHES BETWEEN POLICE AND SEGMENTS
OF POPULACE OCCURRED IN OUTLYING AREAS OF LIAQUATABAD
AND NAZIMABAD WITH SMALL INCIDENTS IN OTHER OUTLYING
AREAS AND ONE SERIOUS INCIDENT OCCURRED IN CITY
CENTER AREA. DISTURBANCES BREAKING OUT MID-MORNING
FRIDAY EFFECTIVELY DISRUPTED PUBLIC TRANSPORT IN AFFECTED
AREAS RESULTING IN POOR WORK ATTENDANCE THROUGHOUT
CITY AND WERE FOLLOWED IN AFTERNOON BY CLOSING OF MOST
SHOPS WHICH THRU THE MORNING HAD BEEN OPEN, BUT WITH
SHUTTERS DRAWN IN ANTICIPATION OF TROUBLE SINCE THEY
HAD BEEN WARNED THURSDAY AFTERNOON NOT TO OPEN FRIDAY.

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2. ON FRIDAY ONE 19-20 YEAR OLD YOUTH SHOT DEAD BY POLICE OFFICER IN MELEE IN CENTER CITY AREA. DISTRICT MAGISTRATE IN PUBLIC STATEMENT FRIDAY NIGHT ANNOUNCED 75 POLICE HAVE BEEN INJURED IN WEEK'S DISTURBANCES AND 185 DISTURBERS OF THE PEACE WERE ARRESTED ON FRIDAY. STATEMENT NOTED THAT POLICE WERE OPERATING UNDER INSTRUCTIONS TO USE MINIMUM FORCE AND AVOID USE OF FIREARMS. THERE WERE SCATTERED INCIDENTS IN AFFECTED AREAS FRIDAY NIGHT, BUT AT LOWER LEVEL THAN THURSDAY EVENING. AS OF MID-MORNING SATURDAY BUSES STILL NOT RUNNING IN NAZIMABAD-LIAQUATABAD AREA, BUT REMAINDER OF CITY FUNCTIONING NORMALLY. FURTHER INCIDENTS MAY OCCUR LATER IN DAY IN MOST DISTURBED AREAS, BUT MOST LIKELY THEY WILL REMAIN CONFINED TO THESE AREAS AND POLICE VS. DISRUPTIVE ELEMENTS GAME OF HIDE AND SEEK MAY BE RENEWED.

3. PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO SPEAKING IN LARKANA ON FRIDAY REGRETTED THE INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE POINTING OUT THAT IT NOT GOVERNMENT'S FAULT THAT TRANSPORT COSTS UP BECAUSE OF WORLD-WIDE PETROLEUM PRICE INCREASES ADDING THAT PAKISTAN'S OIL SUPPLY NOT ENDANGERED BECAUSE OF ITS FRATERNAL TIES WITH ARAB COUNTRIES. P. M. ALSO CONDEMNED CALL BY KARACHI RIGHTISTS FOR HARTAL FRIDAY BECAUSE IT NOT BASED ON CONCERN OVER PRICE INCREASES BUT FOR SOME OTHER PURPOSE.

4. COMMENT: DISTURBANCES FRIDAY UNDOUBTEDLY REFLECTED AGITATION BY SOME GROUPS ON OTHER THAN ECONOMIC GROUNDS (REFTEL) AND WHILE DISTURBED CONDITIONS IN SOME AREAS OF THE CITY MAY PERPETUATE THEMSELVES LONGER, AT THIS POINT IT APPEARS THEY LIKELY TO WIND DOWN RATHER THAN ESCALATE.
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